

SECRET

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : COINS Project Manager

DATE: 07 August 1970
COINS/362-70

FROM : Chairman, COINS User Support Panel

SUBJECT: Monthly Report (July)

1. CORRECTION TO CUSP REPORT FOR JUNE - The date of the report should read 8 July 1970, vice 8 June 1970.

2. CUSP MEETING - A meeting was held at NSA on 16 July, and was attended by the following persons:

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The response to the aborted messages reads as follows:

LINE CONTAINS INVALID CHAR. LINE 06 DELETED
REQUEST 1234567890 DELETED

Note, However, that only five lines were input in each one.

This problem has been turned over to the Computer and Communications Interface Panel (CCIP) for solution.

5. RECOMMENDATION ON 15,000 CHARACTER ANSWER LIMIT - Some users have expressed a desire to get more than the 15,000 character limit (3-4 8x11" pages of print) in response to any one interagency query. Further, 15,000 characters is not enough to allow the user to get on-line a detailed description of some of the files described in [REDACTED] Recommend, therefore, that the limit be raised to 30,000 characters (6-8 8x11" pages of print), or as close as possible to that.

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6. COFSA - The main topic at the 16 July CUSP meeting was COFSA. With DIA changing to a new system it was felt that any possible changes should be considered at this time. Results of these discussions were as follows:

a. We still need on-line file descriptions because:

- (1) The user can get the information in bits and pieces or in a general way, as desired.
- (2) The description can be kept current easier through on-line updating. This capability does not now exist but will in the new DIA system.
- (3) The bank of on-line descriptions can be used for training purposes.

25X1 b. We also need to periodically produce full file descriptions in hard-copy form because some people prefer not to spend the time it takes to get them from the system (changes will have to be made available on-line, however, as they now are [redacted]). Such a hard-copy document will replace the CATALOG OF COINS FILES which does not contain detailed descriptions. Publication will begin as soon as possible after the change over to the new DIA system occurs.

c. CUSP members will press file sponsors to review and update the COFSA descriptions of their files.

d. The Chairman will investigate the possibility of compiling a glossary of codes and abbreviations contained or referenced in the [redacted] descriptions. This appears to be a massive job and, if done at all, may have to be done on a selective basis or by Agency. The possibility of creating an on-line file of these codes for look up by users was not viewed favorably at this time because it was felt that keeping it up to date would be extremely difficult, and it would generate too many additional queries. For the long term, perhaps a special feasibility study group should be appointed by the Project Manager to determine whether this can be or should be done within the system itself, and how.

e. The 15,000 character output limit should be raised to allow users to retrieve a complete COFDQ output on any file (see para. 5).

[redacted] 25X1
Chairman, COINS User Support Panel

cc: CUSP Members
COINS Subsystem Managers
Chairman, COINS Panels

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